

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 COME-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 NASA-04 SCI-06

SS-20 NSC-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 SP-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /149 W

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R 021735Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2736

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

DOD WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PINR, TPHY, UK, FR, NO

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN WEATHER STATION PROJECT

REF: LONDON 9693

1. EMBOFF ATTENDED 2 AUGUST MEETING AT FOREIGN OFFICE DURING WHICH BRITISH BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES OF NATO NATIONS (LESS LUXEMBOURG, GREECE AND TURKEY) ON PROBLEMS DISCUSSED REFTEL. BRITISH EMPHASIZED THAT INITIATIVE TO DEFER DECISION ON PARTICIPANTS IN OCEAN WEATHER STATION OPERATION FOR THE PERIOD 1975-1990 RESTS SOLELY WITH HMG AND THAT US RECONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN ARRANGEMENT IS IN RESPONSE TO UK INITIATIVE.

2. FCO BRIEFING WAS FACTUAL ONE DESIGNED TO EDUCATE PARTICIPANTS IN WHAT TO MOST OF THEM IS VIRGIN TERRITORY.

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BRITISH EMPHASIZED THAT APPROACH IS UNILATERAL ONE, AND

INDICATED THAT NO PARALLEL MOVE IS TO BE EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON.

3. BURDEN OF PRESENTATION WAS THAT NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT NEXT WEEK'S GENEVA SESSION THAT WOULD "CLOSE DOOR" ON POSSIBLE US PARTICIPATION, THEREBY CLEARING WAY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET OFFER. FCO REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT FIRM US DECISION WOULD BE REACHED BEFORE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER PLENARY SESSION AND URGED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT WEEK'S DISCUSSIONS BE INSTRUCTED TO DEFER ANY DECISION UNTIL THAT TIME.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, EMBOFF STATED THAT HE HAD NO DEFINITIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER AND, THEREFORE, WAS ATTENDING ONLY AS AN "INFORMED OBSERVER." HE DID CONFIRM HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WASHINGTON WAS CONSIDERING THE ENTIRE SITUATION URGENTLY. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SOVIET TACTICS (E.G., OFFERING TO MAN STATION ECHO SHOULD WE RISE TO THE "BAIT" AND AGREE TO MAN STATION CHARLIE) WAS NOT RAISED.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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